

Health Issues and Priorities

Community Process

In summary, the Health Indicator Trends that have shown an increasing trend over the past 10 years include:

- **Percent births to unwed women**
- **Number teenage pregnancies**
- **Number pregnancies/1000 females**
- **Number pregnancies/1000 females ages 10-14**
- **Number pregnancies/1000 females ages 15-17**
- **Number pregnancies/1000 females ages 18-19**
- **Percent pregnancies to unwed women**
- **Percent of live births classified as low birth weight**
- **Percent of births w/1 or more high risk characteristics**
- **White female age-adjusted mortality rate/100,000 population**
- **Chlamydia rate/100,000 population**

In analyzing these trends, the council's awareness of these problems increased dramatically. The council members expressed concern with the issues surrounding pregnancies in their county specifically, teen pregnancies. The data reflects that females at a younger age are becoming pregnant, and certainly this is a concern for the community.

After a thorough analysis of all data sets, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, and Community Health Assessment Survey, the council established priorities among a multitude of problems. The following health priorities and their related recommendations are listed below. In order to ensure that all health problems are addressed in the same way, the council utilized a process that is objective, reasonable, and easy to use. The method that was used sets priorities based on the size and seriousness of the problem in conjunction with the knowledge about the effectiveness of potentially available interventions. All issues were identified through the council's discussion, review of the data, and other related "Data Analysis" in the previous section.